- To provide a good cable network to the consumers to meet all their needs of entertainment, information and education.
- Both computer and TV sets will be able to screen programmes/signals including Internet, video on demand.
- Grant of a licence to MTNL to start a cable network using its fibre optics and high end copper cable distribution systems.
- Operationalisation of MTNL ATM switches in Mumbai and Delhi by way of starting multimedia services using the content provided by Prasar Bharati. The consumer could get the facility of streaming video.
- These ATM switches can provide video on demand service to consumers in Delhi and Mumbai in the first instance.
- The success of such a service would hinge on a good, reliable and efficient Subscriber Managemnt System.

Telephone lines

447. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are making a strategy to achieve 100 million telephone lines by 2004;

(b) if so, the deatils thereof;

(c) out of the above, how many would be contributed by the private operators; and

(d) what is the likely investment in this plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The Government proposes to achieve a status of approximately 69.30 million lines both fixed and mobile lines by the year 2004 subject to the availability of resources with an addition of 33.01 million lines during the period 2001-2002 to 2003-2004.

(c) Private operators are likely to contribute approximately 8.54 million lines in the status for both fixed and mobile with an addition of 4.89 million lines during the period 2001-2002 to 2003-2004.

(d) The likely investment for this is approximately Rs. 72469 crores for the year 2001-2002 to 2003-2004.